

League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area



LEAGUE LINES

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Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, September 10, 9:30 am to end of day, Gressette Building, Room 105; Senate hearings on "Fetal Heartbeat Bill." Please attend the hearings AND communicate your position on the bill to your state legislators.

Thursday, September 19, 11:45-1:30 at Lourie Center, Public Policy Luncheon, "Think Globally, Act Locally" Speaker Keller Barron will share her experiences at the United Nations meeting on the Status of Women, where she represented the LWVUS. Local NGO leaders will introduce themselves and define their roles.

Saturday, September 24, National Voter Registration Day. The League will have tables and register voters at several locations.

Thursday, September 26, 6:30-8:30 pm, Richland Library Main Auditorium, 1431 Assembly Street, the annual History Center Lecture in Political History. Lecture by Elaine Weiss regarding her new book *The Women's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*.

Friday September 27, noon-2:00 pm, Robert Mills Carriage House, 1616 Blanding Street, "Women and the Right to Vote: A Conversation with Marjorie Spruill and Elaine Weiss." Panel discussion moderated by Laura R. Woliver, LWVCA

Thursday, October 3, 5 pm, Jacquelin Dowd Hall on her new book, *Sisters and Rebels: A Struggle for the Soul of America*. At USC Hollings Library. Reception to follow.



Renew your League membership or ask a friend to become a new member!



PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON Thursday, September 19, 2019



"Think Globally, Act Locally"



Our speaker will be Keller Barron, the LWV/US delegate to the UN Commission on Women. Lourie Center

All League members and friends are welcome.

RESERVATIONS for a catered lunch are

REQUIRED NO LATER THAN

MONDAY NOON, September 16.

Cost of lunch: \$10.00 (attendees may bring a lunch). Please RSVP to Susan James:

sc.susanjames@gmail.com or call 256-6822

WHAT'S NEW INSIDE THIS MONTH?



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LAURA WOLIVER, PRESIDENT of LWV/Columbia Area**“Authoritarianism and Women’s Well-Being”**

Embedded in the history of the seventy-plus year battle to secure the right for American women to vote and the generations-long civil rights movement is the dismantling of patriarchal authoritarianism. Yet, today people still must ask, “Who is the authority about a person’s freedom?”



When someone belittles or directs another person about what they should be doing, it is called “patronizing.” The word is linked to “patriarchal,” the rule of males. When a group of people rule over others, it is often justified as “for their own good,” hence patronizing. When one person asserts that he/she knows better than you what is good for you, they assert authority over you. Scholars of gender, race, social class, and sexualities see these practices as “chains of protection.”

In South Carolina, the chains of protection were highlighted in 1909 by a child custody dispute involving the patrician family of Ben Tillman (yes, *that* Tillman family).

Former Governor and U.S. Senator Benjamin Ryan Tillman’s son was involved in a “nasty” divorce. The son, Benjamin Ryan Tillman III (called “B.R.”), was a widely known alcoholic and gambler. The couple had two young daughters. In 1909, B. R. deeded the children to his parents referencing his inability to care for them. Under South Carolina law, a father, and a father only, could deed his children to another when he could not care for them himself. The children’s grandparents became their owners. To see the children and eventually get them back, the children’s mother (Senator Tillman’s ex-daughter-in-law) Lucy Dugas Tillman engaged in a lengthy, highly publicized legal battle with U.S. Senator Tillman.

Ultimately, the South Carolina Supreme Court ruled in *Tillman v. Tillman* (1910) that in the best interests of the children they should be returned to Lucy. Local and national media coverage of the case combined with the outrage of many women and some men led the South Carolina legislature to change the law to require both parents’ permission to deed children.

Many people saw the ugly face of chivalry and patriarchy when self-defined guardians were unmasked as oppressors. The Tillman lawsuit awakened many South Carolinians to the need to change laws so that women had more agency over their own lives. At the time of the Tillman child ownership case, many reformers’ energies were subsequently channeled into the women’s suffrage campaign.

Hard-won wisdom about protectors, patriarchs, and authoritarians galvanized the activism of many people including the suffragists and, after 1920, the League of Women Voters. The impetus was to protect women's (and humans') right to choose a route toward their own well-being as full citizens.


Most people realize that some things in life are market inalienable. They have no price, not because they are worthless or free for the taking, but rather because they are priceless. Brave souls, for example, have forever questioned the morality of enslaving people. Abolitionists were not swayed by market-based and patriarchal justifications. They held that humans were not property and were priceless.

Consider what some people are willing to sell for the sake of power. While these are often Faustian bargains (you sell your soul for fleeting power but eternally damn yourself), there are many avenues available to justify the sale. If a democracy is corrupted by malapportionment or money or craven beliefs that "might makes right," Faustian bargains can seem necessary to attain authority and power. Yet, in these bargains, priceless treasures can be frittered away.

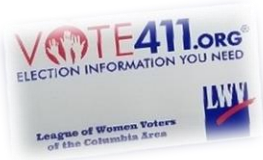
A popular admonition goes: "Freedom is not free." The backbone for this slogan is that freedom is priceless, one of our most beloved treasures, and worth sacrificing for.

The League of Women Voters stands out as a nonpartisan, strongly democratic, egalitarian association. The League is committed to open, accountable, democratic government monitored by engaged, energetic, and informed citizens. Even during one-party authoritarian rule, the League of Women Voters and allies stand up for principles that should never be bought and sold. The League of Women Voters' ideals are priceless treasures that are worth fighting for.

Please be aware, therefore, of snap South Carolina legislative hearings scheduled for September 10 beginning at about 9:30 am until the end of the day. The legislative proposal is entitled the "Fetal Heart Beat Bill." The undercurrent legislative goal is to ban legal abortions and trigger litigation based on who decides what is best for girls and women in South Carolina. The hearings will be held in the Gressette Building, Room 105. As part of your fight against these restrictions on women's well-being and agency, please be sure to write to your state representatives and explain the reasons why you oppose the legislation. Remind them that you vote and have a heartbeat.

 Please note the other September events listed within this issue of *League Lines*.
Keep the faith, Laura

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VOTE411 on the MOVE!

Keller Barron

Wearing bright blue t-shirts, members visited the council meetings of the 12 municipalities in Richland and Lexington Counties having elections this November 3. Members introduced the League and VOTE411. Cooperation was solicited because to be successful, both parts of VOTE411 must be executed: 1) candidates must answer the questions below; and 2) voters must click on VOTE411.org using their address to find their ballot and see the candidates' positions.



Keller Barron and Lady June Cole

Lady June Cole presenting



Making presentations were Lady June Cole, Columbia; Sharon Ayling, Irmo; Debbie Dickinson, Summit and Swansea; CheChe Goldman, Blythewood and Springdale; Lil Mood, Chapin; Amy Mikell, West Columbia; Sally Huguley, Arcadia Lakes; Margaret Anne DuBose, Pine Ridge; Anita Baker, Pelion; Rachel Dieter, Batesburg-Leesville.

COME ALONG! If you would like to join others attending other local government meetings to support the League and see local government in action, please call Keller Barron, 771-4458.

411 CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

<p>City 1</p>	<p>Columbia Council</p>	<p>1. What are your qualifications for this office?</p> <p>2. In your opinion, what are the major factors relating to the incidence of crime in the city?</p> <p>Are there sufficient resources to deal with the problem? If not, what is the best way to address this?</p> <p>3. The non-taxed entities in the city benefit from its services, but this restricts revenue growth for</p> <p>Funding existing programs and services. Would you support finding better ways to distribute the tax burden, such as charging fees to these non-taxed entities?</p> <p>4. What other challenges do you identify for the city and what solutions do you propose?</p>
<p>City 2</p>	<p>West Columbia – Mayor & Council</p>	<p>1. What are your qualifications for this office?</p> <p>2. In your opinion, what are the major factors relating to the incidence of crime in the city?</p> <p>Are there sufficient resources to deal with the problem? If not, what is the best way to address this?</p> <p>3. What other challenges do you identify for the city and what solutions do you propose?</p>
<p>towns 1 - transportation question</p>	<p>Batesburg-Leesville – Council</p> <p>Chapin - Council</p> <p>Irmo – Mayor & Council</p> <p>Pine Ridge - Council</p> <p>Summit – Mayor & Council</p>	<p>1. What are your qualifications for this office?</p> <p>2. What are the next steps for providing public transportation in your community/county?</p> <p>What is your preferred way to fund public transportation?</p> <p>3. What other challenges do you identify for your town and what solutions do you propose?</p>

Towns 2	Arcadia Lakes – Council	1. What are your qualifications for this office?
	Blythewood – Mayor & Council	2. What do you identify as the top 3 challenges for your town and what solutions do you propose?
	Pelion - Council	
	Springdale – Mayor & Council	
	Swansea – Council	



OBSERVER CORPS APRIL 2019 SUBMISSION

Lady June Cole

West Columbia City Council 8/6/2019

Observer: Amy Mikell

This regularly schedule monthly meeting was called to order by Mayor Bobby Horton. The proceedings mostly dealt with requests to approve changes in noise ordinances for a special event, allowing alcohol to be served at a city sponsored tribute, recognizing the service of several public works employees, and a continuation of a mutual assistance agreement with Pine Ridge Police. The bulk of the meeting was devoted to a presentation of promotional materials designed by West Columbia staff to attract investors through the Opportunity Zone Project. This national effort provides funds to entities willing to purchase and improve low-income areas in cities such as West Columbia. The quality of the materials adds to the chances that the city will be successful in attracting such investors.

Richland County Voter Registration and Election Commission 8/8/19 Observer: Robin White

The Board welcomed Terry Graham as Interim Director, stepping up from Election Systems Manager. He previously held management positions in the Chester County BOE&VR for eight years. He served in the U. S. ARMY for 18 years. An agreement has been signed to obtain 50 more new voting machines for \$185K. The County will have the full complement of 1126 new voting machines. A contract has been let to obtain mobile security cages for storing voting machines securely at voting sites in preparation for voting. Previously, the machines were stored in minimally secure closets, making them subject to being disturbed. The cages are tied into a transportation system thus minimizing handling. The storage and maintenance area for the machines has not been changed, thus subjecting the machines to adverse environmental issues such as water intrusion into the building. The board is pursuing a solution to this issue. Funding from the County is not yet secured as many issues are preventing action.

A plan to educate voters on the new machines has yet to be developed. There is a significant amount of work left to ensure that voting will go smoothly. The next two months will determine the outcome.

Columbia City Council 8/20/19 Barron

Observers: Lady June Cole & Keller

The Honorable Mayor Benjamin presided over the regularly scheduled meeting. One of three First Readings for amendment, was Item 47 Ordinance No. 2019-062 Chapter 14, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article I. The amendment added section 14-8 Hate intimidation. Another of the First Readings was Ordinance No. 2019-063 added Article XIII, Gun-free School Zones. All passed the first reading.

League Board Member Lady June Cole spoke to the Council members about the Vote411 website and solicited their support and participation. She was accompanied by League member Keller Barron, who is the Chair of the Vote411 Committee.

Lexington School District 2 8/22/2019

Observer: Amy Mikell

The regularly scheduled meeting began by recognizing board members who had taken advanced training from the National School Boards Association. Various budgetary items were discussed, and revisions to current board policy approved.

Dr. Dixon Brooks, Chief Instructional Officer, made a presentation on a new effort to effectively use technology to extend curriculum beyond the classroom. Called "E-Learning Day," the project sends students home with devices for research on assignments. Teachers will have office hours to provide support as needed. Lexington Two is one of only 15 S.C. districts to participate in this pilot.

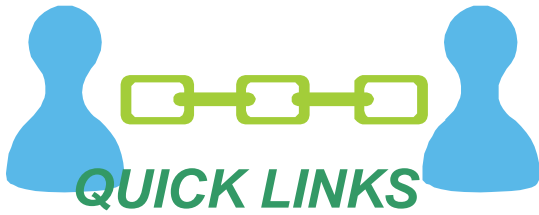


MEMBERS' CORNER



Pat Manley has been the layout editor for League Lines since Sej stepped down years ago and, together with Suzanne Rhodes, continued to get out issue after issue through two and a half administrations. Pat's 30-year career in technical writing and corporate publishing including running her own company – User Documentation Specialists – and in her retirement, authored and published a short novel about starting over titled "FORWARD/REWIND." Pat has consistently gifted us with an attractive, accurate and well-done newsletter,

Sadly, Pat is stepping down at the end of the year to pursue other opportunities and interests. We thank her for all she has done for the League, League Lines, and not least of all, her services as a convention delegate, director, and board member over the years.



Websites:

National: www.lwv.org/

State: <http://lwvsc.org/>

Columbia: www.lwvcolumbiasc.org

Facebook: *To see our Facebook Page:*

1. Go to YOUR Facebook page and begin typing "**League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area**" in the search box until a list pops up.
2. Click on the name **League of Women Voters of Columbia, SC** with the familiar blue LWV Logo on the left.

That's it!


Twitter:


1. Go to YOUR Twitter account and search for the League of Women Voters Columbia Area and connect.


Facebook and Twitter email address:

[@LWVColumbiaSC](https://twitter.com/LWVColumbiaSC)

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 **Columbia City Council**
 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 PM City Hall 1737 Main Street Columbia, SC 29201
 Check website at www.columbiasc.net for more information.

 **Lexington County Council**
 Meet: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 4:30 PM 2nd Floor County Administration Building 212 South Lake Drive Lexington, SC 29072
 For confirmation of meeting dates, please call 785-8103 or check website www.lex-co.com

 **Richland County Council**
 Meet: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 PM 2nd Floor County Administration Building 2020 Hampton Street Columbia, SC 29202.
 For more information, please contact the Clerk of Council Office @ (803) 576-2060 or check: www.richlandonline.com

